

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-18 are cancelled without prejudice.

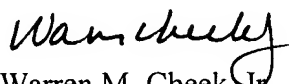
The rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by WO 98/53798, and the rejection of claims 1-13 and 18 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by EP 0 839 526, is thus deemed to be overcome.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 19-32 are allowed. Claims 19-32 have been amended to make editorial changes consistent with U.S. practice.

Favorable action and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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